

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL. VIII NO. 14

4- SEP 20

Copy 1955

August 27, 1955

AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY IN EFFECT SINCE JULY 27, 1955. Following the deposition in Moscow of the British instrument ratifying the Austrian State Treaty, France's ratification instrument was submitted to Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov on July 27, 1955, by Jean le Roy, French Charge d'Affairs in Moscow. The French National Assembly had unanimously ratified the Treaty on July 12, 1955.

With the deposition of the French ratification document in Moscow, the Austrian State Treaty, which was signed in Vienna on May 15, 1955, by the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four and by Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Figl, finally went into effect. As a result, the Allied Agreement of June 28, 1946, relating to the system of control in Austria has become invalid and the occupation troops of the Allied and Associated Powers, together with the members of the Allied Commission for Austria, are to be withdrawn from Austria within 90 days, i.e. by October 25, 1955.

ALLIED COUNCIL IN AUSTRIA DISCONTINUES ITS ACTIVITIES. On the same day that the instrument of French ratification reached Moscow, thereby permitting the Austrian State Treaty to go into effect as originally provided, the Allied Council in Vienna, holding the 249th meeting since its establishment in 1945 decided to discontinue its activities. The four High Commissioners unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Inasmuch as the State Treaty providing for the restoration of an independent and democratic Austria goes into effect as of the present date, pursuant to Article 20 of the State Treaty, the Agreement of June 28, 1946, providing for the exercise of control in Austria, loses its validity. The Allied Council therefore declares that the activity of the Allied Commission for Austria is herewith terminated. Upon termin-

ating its appointed assignments, the Allied Council conveys to the people and government of Austria its best wishes for a prosperous and happy future in freedom and peace."

Following the meeting, the flags of the four occupation powers were lowered from the Allied Council building in Vienna. Chancellor Julius Raab and Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf were present at the ceremony as representatives of Austria.

"GREY CARD" NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR ENTERING AUSTRIA. With the entry into effect of the Austrian State Treaty on July 27, 1955, American citizens no longer require the "grey card" for travel to any part of Austria. Since this time, American citizens in possession of a valid passport have been able to visit any part of Austria, regardless of whether they enter the country by rail, automobile or airplane.

SOVIETS TRANSFER OIL FIELDS, USIA PLANTS AND DANUBE STEAMSHIP COMPANY TO AUSTRIA. All of the enterprises in Austria confiscated by the Soviets in 1945 under the title of "German Assets," (i.e. the "USIA plants,") including the oil fields and the Danube Steamship Company, were transferred to the Austrian authorities on August 13, 1955, by the Soviet occupation authorities, specifically by the General Directorate of USIA. Henceforth, there is no longer a single enterprise in Austria which is under the direction or control of an occupation power.

The General Directorate of USIA had charge of 398 large and small industrial plants, of which 251 were in Vienna, 139 in Lower Austria, 5 in the Burgenland and 3 in the Soviet-occupied part of Upper Austria. In addition to these, there were 28 plants engaged in the production, processing and distribution of petroleum. These enterprises employed a total of approximately 55,000 workers. Broken down in terms of fields



Zistersdorf — the Center of the Austrian Oil Fields

of production, the USIA plants now restored accounted for the following percentages of Austria's overall economic structure: oil 100%; glas 60%; leather and leather processing 43%; iron, steel and metal goods 40%; metal works 40%; machine and apparatus construction 22%; vehicle construction 17%; building industry 12% and electrical industry 10%.

Fifteen of the returned USIA plants have been nationalized under the Austrian Nationalization Law of 1946 and placed under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Transportation and Nationalized Enterprises. In the case of the remaining plants, 319 public administrators have been appointed for the time being. Approximately 60 plants are in the process of being restored to their original owners.

At the same time, the Soviets restored 234,650 acres of land to Austria, of which 135,850 acres are forests and 98,800 acres arable land. Included in this land are 450 individual enterprises.

The transfer of the Austrian Danube Steamship Company, with all ships, shipyards and harbor installations took place at the Korneuburg Shipyard, where the motorship "Kronstadt" was handed over to the Austrians by the Soviets during a symbolic transfer ceremony.

During similar plant celebrations, the oil fields and refineries were turned over by the Soviet directors of the "Soviet Petroleum Administration" (SMV) to the public administrators appointed by the Austrian Government to the new "Austrian Petroleum Administration" (OeMV). Immediately after the transfer, several hundred oil workers at Zistersdorf, the center of Austria's petroleum area, announced their resignation from the Austrian Communist Party. (Even in the centers of the Soviet oil administration in Austria, the percentage of Communist votes was never higher than 5%).

"PROVISIONAL BORDER-GUARD UNITS" TO FORM CADRE OF NEW AUSTRIAN ARMY. Since the Austrian Defense Law will not go into effect until September 1955, the military formations under the jurisdiction of the Office for National Defense will for the time being, be designated as "Provisional Border-Guard Units." These cadre divisions of the new Federal Army are military formations which were hitherto incorporated in the Austrian gendarmerie. On July 21, 1955, these military formations, which until now have been under the jurisdiction of the Minister of the Interior and which represent cadre units of 6,700 officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men, were transferred to the jurisdiction of the new Office for National Defense.

"OFFICE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE" ESTABLISHED. As part of the preparations for the establishment of an Austrian Federal Army, an "Office for National Defense" has been set up in Vienna. The new department is a section of the Federal Chancellery and includes the following sections:

1. General Affairs; 2. Legal Office; 3. Military Affairs; 4. Supply.

Appointed to head this office was Dr. Emil Liebitzky, a retired Major General and Certified Engineer, who will be directly responsible to the Federal Chancellor. General Liebitzky was graduated with the rank of a lieutenant in 1913 and in 1938 was military attache of the Austrian Legation in Rome. In 1938, during the occupation of Austria by Germany,

the then Colonel Liebitzky was dismissed for political reasons. In 1945, as part of the rehabilitation program, he was promoted to the rank of major general.

NEW DEFENSE LAW BASED ON UNIVERSAL MILITARY DUTY. The Austrian Government has arrived at a decision on the draft of an Austrian defense law, which has already been submitted to Parliament and which will be dealt with by both Houses during a special session in September 1955. The draft law provides that every male Austrian citizen between the ages of 18 and 50 will be subject to military duty, first in the effective service and later in the reserve. It is planned that the normal effective service will last nine months. There will also be professional officers and volunteers who sign up for longer periods of service. According to the law, the purpose of the new Austrian army is to protect the country's frontiers and its constitutional institutions, as well as to maintain domestic order and peace and to lend assistance in the event of catastrophes.

The Federal President will act as Commander-in-Chief. Disposition over the army is placed in the hands of the Federal Chancellor, pursuant to the authorization given him by the Government. In military matters of great importance, it is required that a "National Defense Council" has a voice in any decisions made. This body is to be composed of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, two representatives of the political parties represented in the Steering Committee of Parliament, the head of the National Defense Office and the General Inspector of Troops. Moreover, the general service regulations for the Federal Army can be adopted only with the approval of the Steering Committee of Parliament. The political parties sitting in Parliament must also be represented in the Complaints Commission.

The new defense law provides further that persons subject to military duty may be released from service involving the use of weapons on grounds of religious belief or conscience, provided they can prove these grounds. They can, however, be called up for service not involving the use of weapons.

During July, members of the National Defense Committee of Parliament visited Switzerland to study that country's military system. In the period between August 22-27, they will study the structure and institutions of the Swedish army.

TREATY ON REPURCHASE OF OIL FIELDS CONCLUDED. Within the framework of the Austrian-Soviet economic negotiations, an agreement was concluded in Moscow on July 12, 1955, providing for Austrian shipments of oil to the Soviet Union as payment for the return of the oil enterprises which the Soviets had confiscated in Austria after 1945. Under the terms of this agreement, Austria will supply the Soviet Union with one million tons of crude oil annually for the next ten years as payment for the surrender of the oil fields, prospecting rights, refineries and the "OROP" sales organization. The agreement provides for the possibility of Austria's advance fulfillment of her obligations without the consent of the Soviet Union. Moreover, Austria has the right to substitute the US-dollar value, calculated in terms of prevailing world market prices, of such quantities of oil as she may be unable to deliver.

AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND TRANSFER OF PAYMENTS SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION. Implementing the Austrian-Soviet agreement of April 15, 1955, a number of agreements on exchange of goods and transfer of payments between the Soviet Union and Austria were signed in Moscow on July 21, 1955. The life of each agreement is 5 years. They will go into effect simultaneously with a basic trade treaty and a navigation treaty between the two nations yet to be agreed upon.

Incorporated in the agreement on the exchange of goods are lists providing for an annual exchange of approximately 650 million schillings worth of goods in both directions. Under its terms, the Soviet Union will supply Austria, for the most part, with the following merchandise: wheat, rye, corn, winter barley, rice, coal, asbestos, cotton, tin, platinum, ferro-alloys, sulfur, various types of machinery, trucks, industrial fats, paraffin, films and chemicals. The principal items on the Austrian export list under this agreement are the following: water turbines and generators for water turbines, hydroelectric installations, Diesel locomotives, various types of machinery, steel cable, steel wire, eyeglass lenses, lamp oil, dredges, automobile batteries, sheet lead and lead pipe, plywood, Diesel fuels, sheep's wool yarn, leather and motion picture films. The Austrian list also provides for the delivery of 2 Danube Diesel tugs and one million dollars' worth of ship repairs annually.

The agreement on payments provides for the establishment of two clearing dollar accounts and a mutual special credit in the amount of 5 million clearing dollars.

PAYMENTS ON "USIA PLANTS" TO START SEPTEMBER 1, 1955. On July 12, 1955, Austria and the Soviet Union concluded an agreement in Moscow on the subject of Austrian shipments of goods to the Soviet Union as payment for the return to Austria of the plants which the Soviets had confiscated in Austria under the title of "German Assets" in 1945 (i.e. the "USIA plants"). This agreement implements the provisions contained in Article 22 and Annex II of the Austrian State Treaty. According to its terms, Austria will deliver 25 million dollars worth of goods to the Soviet Union every year for a period of six years. To carry out these deliveries, Austria is appointing a "commission" under the chairmanship of Chancellor Julius Raab and an "Austrian Company" (i.e. a liquidation company) under the direction of Mr. Preglau. The "Trade Representation of the USSR in Austria" will be the Russian counterpart of these Austrian agencies.

The goods in question will be delivered at prevailing world market prices in effect at the time the orders are placed. These prices will be expressed in terms of US dollars. Settlement of the Austrian shipments will be effected through an appropriate dollar account of the Austrian Government established with the Soviet State Bank. The agreement provides for the possibility of advance fulfillment of commitments, subject to mutual agreement. At Soviet option, the shipments will be effected FOB Austrian Danube ports or to the Austrian border, all charges prepaid, exempt of fees and duty-free. In the event Austria is unable to pay the entire 25 million dollar quota in the form of merchandise during any given year,

the agreement also provides that the Soviets will accept the balance in dollars.

This Austrian-Soviet Agreement of July 12, 1955, provides for the following shipments of merchandise during the next six years:

Crude Oil	200,000 tons
Steel plate	5,000 tons
Galvanized sheet metal	5,000 tons
Rolled copper	1,000 tons
Nitro lacquer	2,000 tons
Artificial silk yarn	1,600 tons
Power cables	1,000 kilometers
Mobile Diesel compressors	300 units
Rolling mill equipment	in the amount of 2.5 million dollars
Chemical equipment	" " " 1.3 "
Machinery for paper production and wood processing	" " " 3.4 " "
Special trucks	" " " 1.6 " "
Control and measuring devices	" " " 0.8 " "
Shoes	" " " 0.5 " "

NEW FINANCIAL BURDENS IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSFER OF USIA PLANTS. During the negotiations relating to the transfer of the USIA enterprises, Soviet Trade Minister Yushin demanded that Austria pay the sum of 850 million schillings, the amount which the USIA plants are supposed to have borrowed from the Soviet Military Bank in Vienna for operating capital. In the course of the negotiations it was agreed that the Austrian Control Bank would take over these claims of the Soviet Military Bank on USIA for a lump-sum payment of 508 million schillings. The Soviet Military Bank in Austria discontinued its activity as of July 16.

Austria also indicated her willingness to pay an additional amount of 67 million schillings for various raw materials and machine parts which had not yet been distributed to the various USIA plants by the central Soviet warehouse in Austria (e.g. lumber, new vehicles, pipes for construction, assemblies etc.).

In connection with the transfer of the oil fields, the Soviets relinquished 2,750 railroad tank cars and several hundred steam locomotives to Austria free of charge, this material having previously been confiscated as "booty."

The Austrian Ministry of Finance has been authorized by Parliament to assume liability, up to the amount of 800 million schillings, for losses in connection with new loans made for operating capital to the now restored USIA enterprises.

AUSTRIA PROTESTS SHOOTING DOWN OF PLANE OVER BULGARIA. On instructions from the Austrian Government, the Austrian Legation in Sofia has registered an official protest with the Bulgarian Government over the killing of an Austrian citizen and has demanded full compensation for damages. The Austrian protest was in connection with the shooting down of a plane of the "El Al" line on July 27, 1955, after it had flown over Bulgarian territory. The Austrian citizen Sigmund Wieselmann lost his life in the crash.

AUSTRIANS STILL BEING HELD IN SOVIET UNION. Well-informed quarters in Vienna assume that at the present time 447 Austrians are still being detained in the Soviet Union. In the case of 42 of them, it is known that they are now entitled to circulate freely in the Soviet Union but that they still have no exit visas. Ninety-two of them carry on regular correspondence with their relatives in Austria. The detention of 52

other persons in Russia has been confirmed either by returning prisoners or by the Soviet authorities. In the case of 261 other persons, all that is known is that they were arrested by Soviets in Austria and have not yet returned home.

ALL FOREIGN RADIO STATIONS IN AUSTRIA HAVE DISCONTINUED THEIR ACTIVITY. With the entry into effect of the Austrian State Treaty, the U.S. "Red-White-Red" network in Austria has brought its activities to a close. Several of the network's regular programs, which enjoyed great popularity among the Austrian people, will be incorporated into the program of the "Austrian Radio."

On its last day of broadcasting, "Red-White-Red" featured a speech by Chancellor Julius Raab in which he expressed gratitude to the United States occupation authorities for encouraging "Red-White-Red" in its efforts to be of service to Austria, even though it was the radio voice of the American occupation power.

With the simultaneous termination of the "Russian Hour," hitherto broadcast over the Vienna I transmitter of the "Austrian Radio," the entire field of radio broadcasting in Austria is now a matter of exclusive Austrian jurisdiction.

NEUTRALITY DECLARATION INTRODUCED IN AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT. In its meeting of July 19, 1955, the Austrian Government adopted the following draft of a constitutional law relating to Austrian neutrality, in accordance with appropriate resolutions of Parliament adopted on June 7 and 8, 1955:

"1. In order permanently and forever to maintain her outward independence and in the interest of the inviolability of her territory and of the maintenance of domestic peace and order, Austria voluntarily declares her permanent neutrality and will maintain and defend this neutrality with every means at her disposal.

"2. In order to assure these aims, Austria will at no time in the future adhere to any military alliances and will not permit the establishment of foreign military bases on her territory."

The draft law will be discussed and adopted at a special session of Parliament some time in September 1955.

SOVIET COLLABORATORS REMOVED FROM VIENNA POLICE FORCE. On August 12, 1955, Franz Holaubeck, Vienna Chief of Police, dismissed the district police chiefs who had been appointed by the Soviet Occupation Power in the Soviet-occupied districts of the city. These Communist officials had been appointed by the Soviets against the will of the Austrian police authorities. The Soviets subsequently turned down repeated Austrian requests for the removal of these district police chiefs from office.

AUSTRIA TO PAY \$22 MILLION TO NAZI VICTIMS LIVING ABROAD. An Agreement has been reached between the Austrian Government and a committee of international Jewish organizations under which Austria undertakes to pay the sum of approximately 22 million dollars to Nazi victims, mainly Jews of former Austrian nationality, now living abroad. This payment will be made on the basis of humanitarian considerations and despite the fact that the Austrian Government disclaims responsibility for the crimes committed against Austrians of Jewish extraction after the absorption of Austria by the Ger-

man Reich in 1938.

Shortly after the war, restitution was made of most of the property, rights and interests that had been taken from victims of Nazism under duress. Some of these properties had been taken over by the Soviet occupation forces in 1946 under the title of "German Assets." It will be recalled that all "German Assets," including those subject to further restitution had to be bought back by Austria at a price of 150 million schillings, according to the terms of the newly signed State Treaty. Full restitution will be made out of these assets as soon as they have passed into Austrian hands. However, there are hardship cases which do not fit into the general pattern of restitution because they involve property which was destroyed or lost without trace, such as looted furniture, bank accounts etc. It is these individuals who will benefit by the special fund which is to be set up shortly.

Negotiations between the Austrian Government and the Jewish organizations have been going on for some time and a number of concessions, such as the payment of pension funds to Austrians who had acquired different citizenship, have been made by Austria. According to an estimate of the Jewish committee, the amount made available under the present agreement and earlier relief-legislation would exceed 40 million dollars.

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT TO HOLD 1956 PLENARY MEETING IN VIENNA. During its last meeting in Strassbourg, the Parliamentary Council of the European Movement accepted an invitation of the Austrian Parliamentary Council of the European Movement and unanimously resolved to hold its next plenary meeting in Vienna, from September 5 to 9, 1956.

HIGH HONOR FOR WIFE OF US COMMANDER IN AUSTRIA. Mrs. William H. Arnold, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces in Austria, has been invested as a Lady of the Grand Cross of the Holy Sepulcher in recognition of her charitable work in Austria. This honor conferred upon Mrs. Arnold was proposed by Archbishop Rohracher of Salzburg and approved by Pope Pius XII.

AUSTRIA SETTLES HER DOLLAR LOANS. The Austrian Cabinet has approved the draft of an agreement with the United States for the repayment of Austria's dollar obligations. It is to be expected that in the near future, on the basis of this agreement, the following Austrian dollar loans will be retired: the dollar section of the 4-1/2% Federal Loan of 1930 (IBA), the Creditanstalt-Government Notes of Indebtedness of 1936, the 7-1/2% Gold Dollar Loan of Lower Austria of 1925, the Graz 8% Dollar Loan of 1924, the 6% Vienna Loan, the 6-1/2% Newag Loan of 1926, the 7-1/2% Tiwag Loan of 1925, the 7% Tiwag Loan of 1927, and the 7% Loan of the Austrian Alpine Montan Company of 1925.

AUSTRIA'S EPU BALANCE FAVORABLE AGAIN. In July 1955, for the first time since September of the previous year, Austria again had a favorable balance in her clearing transactions with the European Payments Union (EPU). As a result of the deficit in her clearing transactions between September 1954 and July 1955, Austria's credit balance with EPU had dropped to 2.1 million clearing units (i.e. US dollars). With the favorable July balance of 9.6 million, her credit balance is now 11.7 million clearing units.

INVESTMENT IN AUSTRIA. Until now, only a very small amount of foreign capital has been invested in Austria, the country's status as an occupied country having made it appear rather unpromising to the prospective investor. The recent signing of the Austrian treaty and its ratification have now removed this obstacle. As a result, Austrian banks have in recent weeks been receiving an increasing number of requests and inquiries in connection with opportunities for investing money in Austrian industries and enterprises. These inquiries are coming from countries with extensive capital resources, such as the United States, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. In the United States, as is well known, investments of U.S. capital abroad are being guaranteed up to a limit of \$200 million by the Foreign Operations Administration (FOA), against a commission of 5%. Such guarantees will presumably be given for American investments in Austria too.

At the present juncture there are special factors which could make investment in Austria particularly attractive to foreign capital. For one thing, in addition to the possibility of buying stock in Austria's growing industries, there is an opportunity for establishing subsidiaries and plants in Austria. Because of Austria's favorable geographical position, it is possible for enterprises located there to cover the entire European market. This means, for instance, that from the American point of view, there would be opportunities for doing business despite the world's general dollar shortage.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRIA REACHES RECORD LEVEL. The figure of 2,112,000 employed persons registered for sickness insurance, as of early July, 1955, represents a new high in Austrian employment. As of the same period, the number of job seekers had fallen to 77,000. Of the latter figure, approximately 27,000 were capable only of limited employment.

AUSTRIA'S ORE RESOURCES WILL LAST FOR GENERATIONS. On the basis of recent geological surveys, Austria's total ore resources are estimated at approximately 400 million tons, the annual amount of ore mined today still being below the 3-million ton mark. Within the framework of the development program of Austria's metallurgical plants, in which some 3 billion schillings have been invested in recent years, the Austrian Alpine Montan Company at Donawitz is currently building a third blast furnace and a second converter for its blast steel plant. The United Austrian Iron and Steel Works at Linz are in the process of placing their fourth blast furnace into operation and of expanding their blast steel plant through installation of a third converter.

ANNUAL DEFICIT OF 110 MILLION DOLLARS EXPECTED IN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. Upon instructions from the Austrian Federal Government, the Institute for Economic Research has made a study of Austria's current economic situation. The report states that the deficits in the country's trade and payment balances are an indication of the disproportion between demand, accompanied by strong purchasing power, and limited domestic supply of goods. It sees the key to economic stabilization on a high level in a check on the current excess of building activity and in toning down the investment boom. The report points out that, disregarding non-recurrent factors connected with the conclusion of the State

Treaty, an annual deficit of approximately 110 million dollars must be expected in Austria's balance of payments during the next few years. Of this amount, approximately 60 million dollars represent fulfillment of obligations under the State Treaty, while the remaining deficit of approximately 50 million dollars corresponds to the foreign-trade situation as it has developed up to the present time. If imports were reduced 6.5% and exports increased 8.5% over those during the previous six-month winter period, it would be possible to achieve an equilibrium in the balance of payments, with intangible transactions and services, especially the steadily increasing tourist trade, playing the decisive role.

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION WORK ON KAPRUN UPPER LEVEL COMPLETED. Exactly three years after the start of the concrete construction work, the final concrete masses were poured in the two-dam walls of upper level of the Tauern hydroelectric plant at Kaprun. A total of 1,313,000 cubic yards of concrete were used in building these two walls, located 5,900 ft. above sea level. Each of them is 328 ft. high. The removal of many of the building installations began simultaneously with the completion of the concrete construction.

NEW HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN CARINTHIA. Austria's Drau River Power Company is now working on a new power-station project in the Malta Valley of Carinthia. The new plant is expected to have a capacity of 250 million KWH and to produce 500 million KWH of power annually, which will make it one of the most productive reservoir-fed hydroelectric plants in Europe. By constructing a 490 ft. dam located 5,900 ft. above sea level, it is planned to create an artificial lake containing approximately 130 million cubic yards of water. Inasmuch as the region where the new reservoir is to be built is not yet accessible by highway, shipment of all the material for the preparatory work will be effected by helicopters.

AUSTRIAN FARM PRODUCTION 13% ABOVE PREWAR LEVEL. According to a report of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), Austria's net agricultural production at the present time is approximately 13% above the prewar level. The same statistics show that in 1954, outlay for foodstuffs represented 40.7% of Austria's total expenditures.

INTERESTING PROPOSALS FOR NEW VIENNA AIRPORT. An exhibition is presently being held in Vienna of plans submitted for the new central airport to be built at Schwechat, near Vienna. One of these plans, notable for its originality, has now been purchased. The proposal in question provides for the construction of what are known as "flight stars." These are round, mushroom-like structures which are distributed at wide distances over the landing-field area and are connected with the main airport building by means of underground corridors. In this manner, passengers and baggage can be conveyed to the appropriate planes without disruption of traffic on the landing-field area. Other plans had provided for platforms extending into the landing-field area in the form of bent fingers.

EXPORTS OF AUSTRIAN CAPITAL GOODS TO ASIA RISING. Austria is gradually becoming an important producer of capital goods of all kinds. In the last few years, Asiatic

countries in particular have shown a remarkable demand for such goods, importing about a quarter of the total Austrian machinery exports (valued at 1,000 million schillings) in 1954. India was the heaviest buyer (with 57 million schillings). There is a particularly strong demand in these Asiatic countries for Austrian railroad equipment. Two large conveyor platform cars are currently being shipped to India who has also ordered 1,000 boxcars and flatcars from Austria, while the Syrian State Railways have ordered 50 twin-axle boxcars. Austrian capital goods primarily bought by the Arabian countries include machinery for the electrical, building and construction industries, elevators, business machines, agricultural machinery, trucks and tractors. The United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST) recently shipped 8-meter tubing with a water conducting capacity of 150 cubic meters per second to Turkey for use in the Syhan power plant, and VOEST has received an order for pressure tubing from another Turkish power plant. Foreign trade circles in Austria also expect a considerable expansion of trade with Japan in the near future.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ORGANIZING INTERNATIONAL MOZART CONGRESS. The Austrian Academy of Sciences is planning to hold an "International Mozart Congress" during the 1956 Vienna Festival, which will be held from June 2 to 24. Outstanding biographers and authorities on Mozart will be invited to attend the meeting to discuss problems of research relating to the life and works of Mozart.

MOZART DOMINATES 1955-56 CONCERT SEASON. The 1955-56 program of Vienna's "Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde" (Society of the Friends of Music) will be completely dominated by the works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The eight concerts in the Society's traditional "Great Symphony" cycle will be devoted to the theme: "Mozart and the Nineteenth Century Masters." The concerts in this series will be conducted by Volkmar Andreea, Sergiu Celibidache, Carlo Maria Giulini, Rudolf Kempe, Joseph Keilberth, Paul Klecki and Joseph Krips, and will include the following Mozart works: the G major (KV 318) and E-flat major (KV 543) Symphonies; the Divertimento in D major (KV 251); the Concerto for Two Violins (KV 190), with Willy Boskowsky and Walter Barylli as soloists; the Piano Concerto in B-flat major (KV 595), with Wilhelm Backhaus as soloist; likewise, the choral works "Litaniae de venerabilis altaris sacramento" (KV 243) and "Vesperae solennes de confessore" (KV 338), in which the Vienna "Singakademie" will perform.

The five subscription concerts of the "Karajan Cycle" will be grouped under the heading "Mozart and the Twentieth Century Masters." In the course of this cycle, Herbert von Karajan will conduct Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, with Paul Badura-Skoda and Joerg Demus as soloists; the Prague Symphony, the Symphony in A major (KV 114), the Haffner Symphony and the Divertimento in D major (KV 205). He will also direct two concerts to be given on January 26 and 27 in honor of Mozart's birthday, performing the Symphony in G mi-

nor (KV 540); the Piano Concerto in A major (KV 488), with Clara Haskill as soloist; and the Jupiter Symphony.

In its seven-concert cycle, the Vienna "Musikverein Quartet" will highlight "Mozart and Masterpieces of Chamber Music." The programs of this cycle will include performances of Mozart's string quartets in A major (KV 464), D major (KV 575) and B-flat major (KV 575); his string quintets in E-flat major (KV 614), C major (KV 515) and C minor (KV 406), with Wilhelm Huebner as viola soloist; his piano quartets in E-flat major (KV 493) and G minor (KV 478), with Walter Klein as soloist; and his clarinet quintet in A major (KV 481), with Leopold Wlach as solo clarinetist.

MOZART EXHIBITION OPENED IN SALZBURG. A historical exhibition arranged by the International Mozart Endowment was recently opened in the house in Salzburg where Mozart was born. In addition to a number of original manuscripts, the exhibition will feature various types of stage designs, photographs and scenes from "The Magic Flute" and "The Abduction from the Seraglio" on miniature model stages.

FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL MOZART YOUTH ORCHESTRA PLANNED. As part of the activities being organized to commemorate Mozart Year in 1956, plans are being made in Vienna for forming an "International Mozart Youth Orchestra," whose members will be the best students of the conservatories of various European cities. The ensemble will be led by the young Viennese conductor Wolfgang Gabriel. In fulfillment of this project, the city of Vienna will invite 45 students from various European conservatories and academies to be its guests for one month. The orchestra will give twelve concerts of works by Mozart for the youth of Vienna. Its first public concert will be on January 28, 1956.

"AUSTRIAN RADIO" BEGINS TEST TELECASTS. On August 1, 1955, the "Austrian Radio" began transmitting the first regular telecasts of Austria's new television program over TV stations in Vienna, Linz, Salzburg and Graz. The scope of these test transmissions will later be expanded, so that by the end of 1956 full-scale TV operation will be possible. The identifying sign of the Austrian television program is a picture of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, together with the Austrian coat of arms and the word "Austria," with the opening bars of "The Beautiful Blue Danube" as musical accompaniment.

It is announced in this connection that no agreement has yet been reached between the Austrian television system and commercial film distributors, so that for the time being the test telecasts will consist mainly of educational films, in addition to the live programs.

The main purpose of the pilot telecasts is to test transmission conditions, to determine reception capacity and to acquire necessary experience. Austria's first television truck, equipped with four pickup cameras, went into operation at the same time that the test telecasts were started.

1955 SALZBURG FESTIVAL BROADCASTS TO BE HEARD IN 22 COUNTRIES. As the result of the addition of new U.S., Japanese and Rumanian stations to the radio hookup broadcasting the 1955 Salzburg Festival performances, this year's productions were, for the first time, broadcast to no less than

22 nations. These were: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, England, France, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Norway, Poland, Rumania, the Saar, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, the United States, Canada, Morocco, South Africa, Japan and Australia. The programs were also carried by U.S. Armed Forces stations in Europe, by RIAS in Berlin and by the Europe I station in Saarbruecken.

KUBELIK REHEARSES "AIDA." During the latter part of June, Rafael Kubelik made a brief visit to Vienna to conduct the first rehearsals of Verdi's "Aida," which is to be the fourth of the gala "first-night" performances celebrating the reopening of the Vienna State Opera. This performance, representing Mr. Kubelik's first appearance in the traditional home of the Vienna State Opera, will take place on November 11, 1955.

VIENNA VOLKSOPER REHEARSING LATEST MENOTTI

OPERA. Rehearsals of Giancarlo Menotti's "The Saint of Bleecker Street" have already begun at the Vienna Volksoper under the baton of Franz Salmhofer, the company's director. This work will open the Volksoper's coming season. During this season, the Volksoper will be operated for the first time as a third independent theater (along with the State Opera and the Burgtheater) of the Austrian Federal Government.

The second performance of the season will be Leo Fall's classical operetta "Madame Pompadour."

COMPREHENSIVE THEMATIC INDEX OF RICHARD STRAUSS WORKS PUBLISHED. The Vienna music publishing company of L. Doblinger-Herzmannsky has now issued the first thematic index of all the works of Richard Strauss. The new catalogue, prepared under the supervision of Dr. Mueller-Asow, head of the International Music Letters Archive in Berlin, is not unlike the famous Koechel Index of Mozart's works. The first edition of the Strauss index is now available.

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC TO OFFER CHAMBER CONCERTS. During the coming season, the Vienna Philharmonic will, for the first time, present a cycle of four chamber orchestra concerts, to be given at Vienna's Konzerthaus. These concerts will be conducted by Rafael Kubelik and Karl Boehm. Each of them will feature one work from the Baroque, Classical-Romantic and contemporary periods. The concerts, which will be broadcast by Radio Vienna, are scheduled for October 30 and December 4, 1955, and for March 4 and April 22, 1956.

BURGTHEATER ENSEMBLE TO TOUR WITH DRAMATIZATION OF HAMSUN NOVEL. Early in January 1956, an ensemble of the Vienna Burgtheater will leave for a two-and-a-half month tour of Germany, Switzerland, France, Sweden and possibly the Netherlands. The work to be performed is a dramatization of Knut Hamsun's novel "Victoria" by the Austrian author Richard Billinger. The play will have its first performance in Vienna's Akademietheater on September 10, 1955, with Kaethe Gold, Josef Meinrad and Hans Thimig in the leading roles. The work will be directed by John Gielen. Sets and decorations are being prepared by the Swiss artist Luis Egg.

SUCCESSFUL PREMIERE OF AUSTRIAN PLAY. "Thirst Before the Fight," the story of a professional fighter and the first dramatic work of 20-year-old Viennese author Alfred Opel, has been the subject of extensive discussion since its

successful premiere at the "Theater der Courage" during the Vienna Festival last June.

LINZ THEATER HAS AMBITIOUS REPERTORY. The Upper Austrian Provincial Theater in Linz announces that it will present the first performance of K. Reingruber's "What Happens to Sir Alexander" during its coming season. The same theater is scheduling performances of nine plays, four operas and one operetta, none of them ever before given in Austria.

UNESCO-SPONSORED CONGRESS IN SALZBURG TO DISCUSS OPERA PROBLEMS. A UNESCO-sponsored congress is to be held in Salzburg during August 1956 for the purpose of discussing "Problems of Opera in Films, on Television and over the Radio." This congress is designed to provide an international forum of prominent stage directors, composers and authors with an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of experience on the subject of operatic performances and the use of opera in films, on television and over the radio.

1955 ALPBACH EUROPEAN FORUM. The Eleventh International College Session of the Alpbach European Forum, which the Austrian College is holding at Alpbach, Tyrol, from August 19 to September 8, 1955, will feature two special events, in addition to the regular scientific seminars and panel groups. On August 26 and 27, a discussion on "The Educational Mission of the University" will be opened by Dr. Heinrich Drimmel, Austrian Minister of Education. From September 2-4, a series of lectures will be held on "The Joint Market - Central Problem of European Economic Integration," with Dr. Reinhard Kamitz, Austrian Minister of Finance, and leading European economists participating. Jesus Prados Arrarte of Madrid will act as chairman and moderator of the panel.

On September 4, 1955, the "Association d'Etudes Européennes" (Association of European Studies) will convene in Alpbach.

1955 MICROCHEMISTRY CONGRESS HELD IN VIENNA. More than 600 scientists participated in the 1955 Microchemistry Congress organized by the Austrian Society for Microchemistry in Vienna from July 12-17. The largest number of delegates came from Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain and the United States, although the Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern Europe, as well as Japan, Australia and Argentina, were also represented. Over 100 different problems in the field of microchemistry were discussed.

ALFRED KUBIN WINS AWARD AT SAO PAULO. Alfred Kubin, the dean of Austria's graphic designers, won the International Drawing Award at the Third Biennial in Sao Paulo.

FOURTH AUSTRIAN GRAPHIC CONTEST. An exhibition of the Fourth Austrian Graphic Arts Contest opened in Innsbruck, Tyrol, in mid-July. The 48 drawings by 46 artists which were on display represented the jury's final selections from the total of 187 entries submitted.

NEW WINNERS OF LITERATURE AWARDS. The 1955 "Enrica Handel-Mazzetti Awards," which are named for the famous Austrian authoress and are given to authors of novels dealing with Austria's past, went to Dolores Vieser, the Carinthian writer, for her novel "Aelia," and to Maria Gisela Thuma of Innsbruck, for her narrative "Der Tag der Abrech-

nung." A one-time special award, in connection with the death of Enrica Handel-Mazzetti in 1955, was made to the Styrian authoress Paula Grogger for her life work. Paula Grogger is especially well-known for her novel "Das Grimmgantor."

NEW AUSTRIAN FILMS. "Die Wirtin zur Goldenen Krone," which is to be produced this year by the Paula Wessely-Film Company, will feature Paula Wessely in two roles. The new film will be directed by Theo Lingen, who will also play one of the leads. The same company is planning to do a film entitled "Wo die Lerche singt" starring Elfie Mayerhofer and Per Grunden, the Norwegian tenor of the Volksoper. It has also scheduled a film based on Johannes Mario Simmel's novel "Liebe, die den Kopf verliert".

Helios-Film of Vienna and Cito-Film of Munich are planning a joint production of "Der Maneuver-Zwilling", a military comedy dealing with the era of 1914. The star of this picture will be Oskar Werner who will play a dual role and make his first major appearance as a comedian.

Hoela Filmproduction is currently working on a full-length film dealing with cancer. The picture will not provide information about the disease itself but rather will emphasize prevention, possibilities of cure and after-treatment. The services of internationally famous scientists and physicians have been obtained for the medical part of the picture, most of which will be filmed in Vienna hospitals.

FULL-LENGTH FEATURE ON AFRICA PRODUCED IN AUSTRIA. "Omaru - An African Love Story," a new, full-length feature of Wien Film Production, was filmed in the

Northern Cameroons by Austrian director and producer Albert Quendler, using his own script. The photographer of the new film, in which the only performers are natives, was Elio Carmiel, famous for his photography in "The Last Bridge." Music for the film consists partly of original recordings of native music and partly of original music written by Austrian composer Hanns Jelinek on the basis of African motifs.

AUSTRIA HAS WORLD'S HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF PHYSICIANS. Relatively speaking, no country in the world has as many physicians as Austria, where there is one physician for every 534 inhabitants. The comparable figure in the United States is 710; in England 870; in Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands 1,100; and in France 1,300. Similarly, Vienna has the greatest density of physicians of any city of the world, with one physician for every 340 Viennese. The number of physicians in Austria has risen from 7,370 in 1937 to 13,074 today.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH ANKARA PLANNED. Turkish Minister of Education Celal Yardimci left Vienna on July 11, following completion of a study tour of several days. He came to Austria at the invitation of Dr. Heinrich Drimmel, Austrian Minister of Education. Prior to his departure, the visiting Minister declared that he planned to work for closer cultural ties between Austria and Turkey. Under this program, Austrian teachers and scientists would be invited to Turkey, Turkish students would come to Austria for advanced study, and the two countries would exchange artists and entire ensembles, which would participate in guest performances and take advanced training.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE LEHIGH 5-4120

